

La Cooperativa Campesina de California

August 18, 2004

Response to the California Performance Review Recommendations
Health & Human Services hearing
U.C. San Diego
August 20, 2004

Health & Human Services Advocates Panel

All of the following comments will be relevant only to Chapter 2, DHHS, Section G;
Center for Social Services, #3 transferred Functions, Department of Community Services
and Development

The above refers to the recommendation to place the Department of Community Services
and Development into the Social Services Division of the proposed Health & Human
Services Department.

La Cooperativa Campesina de California is the association of the National Farmworkers
Jobs Program – WIA 167 – grantees in the State of California.

It is the mission of La Cooperativa to enhance the quality of life for California's migrant
and seasonal farmworkers and their families.

Our members include:

- California Human Development Corporation (CHDC)
- Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC)
- Center for Employment Training (CET)
- Employers' Training Resource (ETR)
- Proteus, Inc.

La Cooperativa is a 501 (c) 3, not for profit organization as are four of the members.
Employers' Training Resource is the Workforce Development system for Kern County.
Services are provided through a total of 89 offices located in all 30 of California's
significant agricultural counties. In all of these counties our members coordinate closely
with California's One Stop System.

The WIA 167 funds provide resources for core, intensive and training services to adults,
farmworker youth and also provide temporary and permanent housing assistance. The
WIA 167 funds are leveraged with other resources to provide community services,
housing, child development, and energy services. California's Department of
Community Services and Development provides important core agency support.

Our constituents are California's farmworkers and their families. Our typical customer is a Hispanic, foreign born, farmworker, who works 26 weeks a year or less. This worker is unemployed for 26 weeks or more, earns less than \$7,500 per year, has 6 or years less of schooling, relies on unemployment insurance, does not have health insurance, is married with children, doesn't rely on government needs based social service programs such as welfare and has work authorization.

Our services include bilingual vocational training offered on an open entry/open exit and individualized basis. Assistance for farmworker youth to succeed in school, temporary housing assistance, immigration and naturalization assistance and child and family development all help to support job development and employment retention. The common theme supporting all these services is increased individual and family self-sufficiency.

Recommendations on Programs Administered by Government

1. Will the proposal improve access to services? Does it make it simpler for customers/clients?

Answer: It is hard to tell in CSD's case without further information. The fact that CSD becomes part of a larger bureaucracy has potential concerns.

2. Will the proposal improve delivery of service?

Answer: it should not impact or change the way services are currently delivered through CSD's network, if current administrative policies are allowed to continue.

3. Will the proposal improve outcomes?

Answer: It could if additional resources are made available that target a working population that is only seeking a better way to make a living.

4. What will be the impact on the provider network?

Answer: There should be no negative effect on the CSD service provider network, if the subvention contracting and payment processes are kept intact. CSD is primarily a non-profit network and non-profits cannot survive without prospective or prompt payment

5. Will the proposal improve program efficiency?

Answer: The efficiency of programs is determined mostly by the capability of the service provider network. Other efficiencies may be realized with better coordination by and among state offices and units.

Recommendations on the Organization/Structure of Government

1. Will the reorganization proposal improve service delivery and outcomes for clients?

Answer: Because of the very different types of programs that CSD and La Cooperativa operate, this will be hard to predict. Currently our members get funding from federal (DOL), state (EDD,CSD,DOE), county (WIA, other county programs), and private sources (foundations, fundraising). CSD's funds are all federal.

2. Will the proposal promote better coordination and integration of policy and programs for specific client groups?

Answer: It should considering all the resources in DSS available for low-income programs and services. However, CSD's clients are primarily "working poor" and not recipients of TANF programs. As shown, all the programs in Social Services seem to be "entitlement" programs. Also CSD programs are administered primarily by non-profits and not units of government.

3. Does the proposal provide better accountability for specific client groups?

Answer: As presented, DCSD is moved into a Social Services division of DHHS headed by an Undersecretary. In the past, CSD has been very successful in addressing the needs of specific client groups.

4. What are the strongest reasons for implementing this recommendation? What are the greatest potential concerns?

Answer: For implementation, it appears that better coordination and availability of additional resources to address poverty are strengths. Concerns include the potential loss of CSD's focus on non-profits and a possible reduction in services to farmworkers.